

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 ICA-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05 AF-10
ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /131 W
-----009656 291357Z /50

R 291343Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2269
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
USMISSION GENEVA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 16987

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, NI
SUBJECT: UNESCO: TALK WITH NIGERIAN EXBD MEMBER
REGINALD AGIOBU-KEMMER

1. FOLLOWING IS A REPORT BY PROFESSOR THOMAS
BUERGENTHAL, U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO, ON A
MEETING HE HAD WITH MR.AGIOBU-KEMMER, UNESCO EXECUTIVE
BOARD MEMBER (NIGERIA). THEY DISCUSSED THE RACE DECLA-
RATION, MASS MEDIA ISSUES, CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE BOARD,
AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY (IO) GEORGE A. DALLEY'S
VISIT TO PARIS.

2. BEGIN BUERGENTHAL'S TEXT:

A. RACE DECLARATION -- MR. AGIOBU-KEMMER WAS
CATEGORICAL IN HIS ASSERTION THAT THE ZIONIST ISSUE
"WILL BE KEPT OUT" OF THE DECLARATION. HE INDICATED
THAT THIS POINT HAD BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE ARABS IN
MARCH AND WOULD BE DONE AGAIN.

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B. MASS MEDIA ISSUE -- MR. AGIOBU-KEMMER FIRST
MADE QUITE CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT THAT THIS
SESSION OF THE EXBD WOULD TAKE ANY ACTION ON THIS ISSUE
EXCEPT TO "NOTE" THAT THE MATTER WAS BEING CONSIDERED
BY THE DG'S MASS MEDIA COMMISSION. UNTIL THE
COMMISSION MAKES ITS REPORT, AGIOBU-KEMMER FEELS THAT

THERE IS NOTHING TO "DECIDE." AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, AGIOBU-KEMMER EXPLAINED HIS CONCERN WITH THE IMBALANCE IN THE FLOW OF NEWS BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE SAW IT AS A SERIOUS PROBLEM THAT NEEDED TO BE REMEDIED. WHEN BUERGENTHAL QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF A NORMATIVE APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM, AGIOBU-KEMMER WONDERED WHETHER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIRD WORLD NEWS AGENCY MIGHT NOT BE ONE ANSWER. HE WAS, HOWEVER, VERY TENTATIVE ABOUT HIS OWN APPROACH TO THIS WHOLE ISSUE. IN THIS CONTEXT, AS IN THEIR GENERAL DISCUSSION, AGIOBU-KEMMER REITERATED HIS CONVICTION THAT UNESCO SHOULD IN ALL OF ITS ACTIVITIES WORK FOR COMPROMISE SOLUTIONS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL MEMBERS.

C. CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD --
AGIOBU-KEMMER INDICATED THAT HE TOO HAD HEARD THE RUMOR ABOUT A DEAL WITH THE DG TO ELECT MR. VALENTIN LAPATTI (ROMANIA). AGIOBU-KEMMER SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER A DEAL HAD IN FACT BEEN MADE.

SPECULATING ON LIPATTI'S CANDIDATURE, AGIOBU-KEMMER SAID THAT LIPATTI WAS THE LOGICAL CHOICE FOR THE EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP BECAUSE THE OTHER CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS FROM THAT GROUP EITHER LACKED THE NECESSARY EXPERIENCE OR WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE. THE ONLY OTHER

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OPTION OPEN TO THE EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP, IN AGIOBU-KEMMER'S OPINION, WAS TO PUT UP A CANDIDATE WITH EXTENSIVE PRIOR EXECUTIVE BOARD EXPERIENCE. A FORMER BOARD MEMBER FROM HUNGARY APPARENTLY FALLS INTO THIS CATEGORY.

AS TO HIS OWN CANDIDATURE, AGIOBU-KEMMER IS CLEARLY VERY INTERESTED IN THE POSITION AND IN U.S. SUPPORT. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE AFRICAN GROUP HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO PUT UP A CANDIDATE NOR WHO IT SHOULD BE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT THE ARABS WERE INTERESTED IN THE POST, BUT AGIOBU-KEMMER FELT THAT THIS WOULD BE A POOR CHOICE, GIVEN THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. HE ALSO HAD SOME DOUBTS ABOUT HAVING A CHAIRMAN FROM THE EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP.

BUERGENTHAL ALSO LEARNED THAT AGIOBU-KEMMER HAS BEEN INVITED TO VISIT ROMANIA AND EAST GERMANY AND THAT HE WILL TRAVEL TO THESE COUNTRIES SHORTLY AFTER THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION.

D. IN RESPONSE TO BUERGENTHAL'S QUESTION,

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 16987

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AGIOBU-KEMMER INDICATED AN INTEREST IN VISITING THE U.S.
AT THE INVITATION OF THE U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
UNESCO. BUERGENTHAL FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO
ARRANGE SUCH A VISIT.

E. VISIT BY MR. DALLEY -- BUERGENTHAL DISCUSSED
WITH AGIOBU-KEMMER THE POSSIBILITY OF A PARIS STOPOVER
BY MR. DALLEY. AGIOBU-KEMMER INDICATED THAT MR. DALLEY'S
VISIT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL. HE EXPRESSED HIS
INTEREST IN AND WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH DALLEY AND TO
ASSIST OUR MISSION WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A MEETING
BY MR. DALLEY WITH AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES AT UNESCO.

F. PROF. BUERGENTHAL FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE WISE
FOR THE U.S. TO SUPPORT AGIOBU-KEMMER FOR THE CHAIRMAN-
SHIP OF THE EXBD AND TO LET HIM KNOW OF THIS SUPPORT
PRIOR TO AGIOBU-KEMMER'S TRIP TO EASTERN EUROPE. IN
BUERGENTHAL'S VIEW, IF AGIOBU-KEMMER IS A CANDIDATE,
HE WILL WIN OVER AN EASTERN EUROPEAN CANDIDATE.
U.S. MIGHT CONSEQUENTLY GAIN CONSIDERABLE GOOD WILL
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BY LETTING AGIOBU-KEMMER KNOW OF U.S. SUPPORT
BEFORE THE BANDWAGON EFFECT SETS IN.

3. PERMDEL WILL ASK AGIOBU-KEMMER WHETHER OR NOT HE
PLANS TO VISIT THE U.S. IF SO, IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL
IF US NATCOM COULD INVITE HIM TO VISIT WASHINGTON FOR
DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.
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